(b) if so, the measures proposed to assist the unit, located in the backward area, by ensuring implementation of revival plan submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The operations of Ramagundam unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) have been suspended due to exorbitantly high cost of production. The rehabilitation proposals for FCI including its Ramagundam Unit are to be submitted to the competent authority in the Government and thereafter for sanction of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

Financial Assistance for transportation of Fertiliser to Maharashtra

975. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to provide special financial assistance towards transport and cost of Fertiliser to Adiwasi districts of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertiliser under price, distribution and movement control of the Government of India. The phosphatic and potassic fertilisers have been decontrolled with effect from 5.8.1992. The Government of India subsidies both the cost of production and transportation of urea as a result of which Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of urea is uniform throughout the country. As urea is heavily subsidised and MRP of urea is the lowest in India if compared to other countries in the region, there is no proposal for further subsidisation by way of financial assistance for transportation and cost of urea to Adiwasi districts of Maharashtra.

Decline in Production potential of Agricultural Land

†976. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHWATA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received complaints regarding

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

decline in production potential of agricultural land due to continuous use of chemical fertilizers for many years; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the amount of grant which would be paid during 1999-2000 due to high cost of chemical fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No adverse effects of fertilizers on land and eco-system have been reported by the State Governments.

(b) A budgetary provision of Rs. 13250/- crore has been made during 1999-2000 towards subsidy on urea and concession on decontrolled fertilizers.

Construction of Godowns and Warehouses

977. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for construction of new godown and warehouse all over the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, to strengthen Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details there of;

(c) whether Government propose to continue with the centrally sponsored scheme for construction of godowns and purchase of wares etc. in all the States; and

(d) if so, the detials of funds allocated for the purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Food Corporation of India (FCI) constructs new godowns depending upon the need and the budgetary allocation. During the current five year Plan (1997-2002), FCI has projected construction of new godowns for a capacity of 4.55 lakh tonnes at 51 centres against an estimated budget of Rs. 100 crores including the following centres in Andhra Pradesh:

1. Nellore	30,000MT with Railway siding.
2. Amalapuram	10,000MT